Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

Diversity and Resilience of Forest Landscapes

No Action Alternative

Continuous forest structures are more susceptible to disturbance.

Dog hair lodgepole pine stands can increase the chance of high intensity fire and reduces the availability of commercial products.

Modified Proposed Action

Vegetation management alters the forest landscape and shrubland structure by creating diversity in tree and shrub density and species composition. This allows for a variety of stand ages and structural stages.

Tree species can be selectively harvested to increase desired species, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce fire hazard.

Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

Forest Products

No Action Alternative



Dead and downed trees that are not removed from the forest landscape create hazards, rather than providing forest products and adding jobs to local economies.

Modified Proposed Action



Commercially harvested timber volume can contribute to the local economy by creating and supporting jobs in forest industries, including residential and commercial construction, lumber sales, and logging operation employment.

Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

No Action Alternative

Aspen communities are one of the most productive forest types, providing important habitat for a variety of wildlife. However, due to lack of natural disturbance, many of our aspen communities are older and declining.

Lodgepole pine stands that contain large percentages of tree mortality can result in reduced wildlife habitat.

Modified Proposed Action

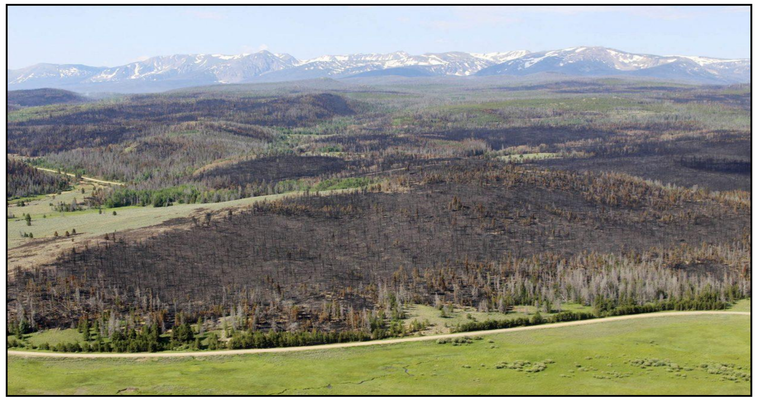
Aspen stands can be regenerated with prescribed fire or mechanical treatments, creating a diversity of age classes, increasing understory growth, and enhancing critical wildlife habitat.

Treatments in grass and shrublands can also increase diversity of structure and age class, providing higher quality wildlife forage and habitat.

Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

Fuels Reduction Treatments

No Action Alternative



Unmanaged forest landscapes reduce fire suppression options. As a result, fires may become more severe and intense, and burn across larger areas for extended periods of time.

Modified Proposed Action

Fuels reduction treatments allow for safer and more successful fire suppression actions. Fuels reduction treatments completed around the Wold Tract, Mountain Home, and WyColo communities created areas where fire behavior was moderated and fire suppression strategies were more effective.

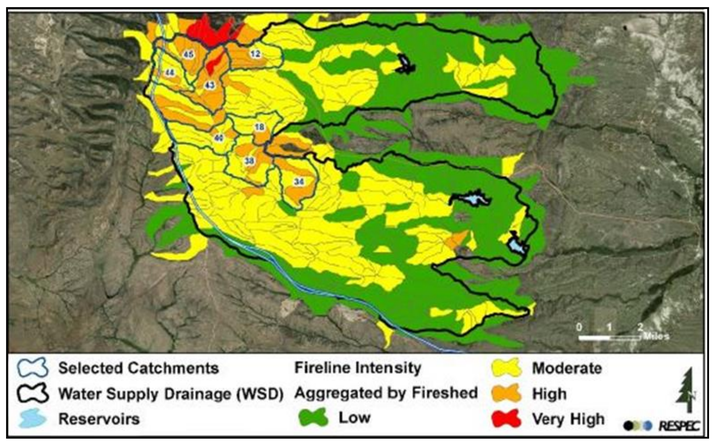
Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

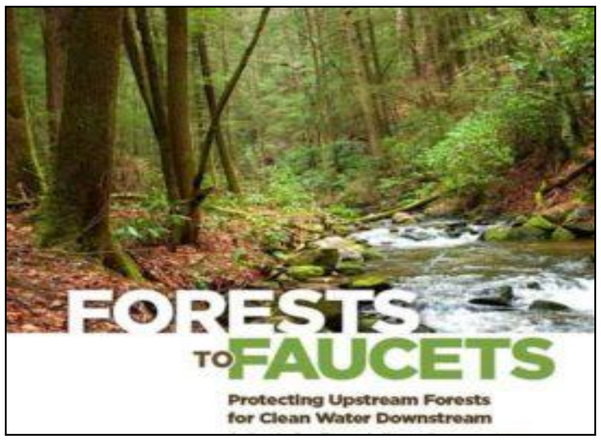
Water Quality

No Action Alternative

Fire within watersheds can cause silt build up in streams and debris accumulation in reservoirs and lakes. These events can negatively impact water quality and increase the cost to deliver water to municipal customers.

Modified Proposed Action





Water supply and forest fuel hazard information can be used to identify areas of concern. Treatments for these areas can then be designed and implemented to reduce the effects of potential wildfires to the water supply.

Benefit Comparison of the LaVA Project

Public Safety and Protection of Infrastructure

No Action Alternative

Falling trees and wildfire damage infrastructure such as roads, fences, and water delivery systems. They also cause concerns for public safety by impeding access to recreation areas and increasing risk of human injury.

Modified Proposed Action

Removing hazard trees from road sides, campgrounds, ditches, and other infrastructure can improve public access, increase safety, and reduce maintenance costs.